

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04

SIL-01 SCS-06 CA-01 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05

/089 W

-----125139 011927Z /47

O 011845Z MAY 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9052

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CASC, PINS, ELAB, CI

SUBJECT: MAY DAY DETENTIONS IN CHILE

1. SUMMARY: UNIFORMED POLICE AND CNI AGENTS DETAINED HUNDREDS OF WORKERS WHO CHALLENGED A GOC BAN ON A MAY DAY CELEBRATION. AMONG THOSE DETAINED WERE PROMINENT GROUP OF TEN (DEMOCRATIC) LEADERS ERNESTO VOGEL AND MANUEL BUSTOS, SEVERAL FOREIGN LABOR LEADERS AND SOME JOURNALISTS, INCLUDING "NEWSWEEK'S" RON MOREAU. MOREAU AND TWO U.S. PRIESTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE AND UNHARMED. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS MORNING MAY 1 DRAWN FROM EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF EMBASSY EMPLOYEE AND SKETCHY RADIO NEWSCASTS:

--BOTH CARABINEROS AND PLAINCLOTHED (CNI) POLICE PRESENT IN LARGE NUMBERS AT DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO PLAZA WHERE GROUP OF TEN (DEMOCRATIC) AND GROUP OF SEVEN (COMMUNIST) LABOR LEADERS HAD SCHEDULED MASS RALLY FOR MAY DAY. GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED LATE APRIL 27 THAT MEETING WOULD NOT BE AUTHORIZED, ORGANIZERS SAID THEY WOULD GO TO PLAZA AND INFORM WORKERS WHO HAD NOT LEARNED

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OF GOC BAN TO GO HOME.

--GROUPS OF WORKERS, CHANTING SLOGANS BEGAN ARRIVING IN PLAZA HOURS BEFORE EVENT SLATED TO START. POLICE, USING BILLY CLUBS, BROKE UP GROUPS AND HERDED THEM INTO WAITING POLICE VANS.

--ACTION PEAKED ABOUT 1100, WHEN LARGE NUMBER OF ARRIVING WORKERS MET BY AUGMENTED POLICE FORCES. HUNDREDS WERE TAKEN AWAY IN VANS AND CNI SEDANS. ERNESTO VOGEL AND MANUEL BUSTOS SURROUNDED BY GROUP OF FRIENDS AND CIRCLE OF NEWSMEN NEAR THE PLAZA BRUSQUELY DETAINED; VOGEL CARTED OFF IN CNI SEDAN. AMONG THOSE PICKED UP WERE NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT RON MOREAU AND AT LEAST TWO, PROBABLY DUTCH, VISITING FOREIGN TRADE UNIONISTS.

--CONSULAR OFFICER HAS JUST CALLED TO SAY HE HAS OBTAINED RELEASE OF MOREAU AND TWO AMERICAN PRIESTS.

--MEANWHILE GROUPS OF YOUTHS BEING CHASED BY POLICE SOUGHT SANCTUARY IN NEARBY CHURCH. POLICE ENTERED CHURCH GROUNDS AND HAULED THEM OFF. OTHERS FLED INTO SAN FRANCISCO CHURCH, WHICH POLICE ENRICLED. EDUARDO RIOS ADDRESSED GROUP. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRIESTS ESCORTED THEM THROUGH POLICE LINES; NO ARRESTS MADE.

--RIOS AND TUCAPEL JIMENEZ, TWO OTHER GROUP OF TEN LEADERS, HAVE JUST BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY. THEY ARE STILL TRYING TO LOCATE VOGEL AND MISSING VISITING TRADE UNIONISTS, BUT THEY SAY THAT THE SITUATION HAS CALMED.

3. IN RELATED MAY DAY ACTIVITY, BOMB EXPLODING EARLY MORNING MAY 1 DESTROYED WINDOWS AT CITIBANK AND BANCO DE SUDAMERICA LOCATED AROUND THE CORNER FROM EMBASSY. NO INJURIES HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEEN REPORTED. LARGE NUMBER OF FLYERS CALLING FOR WORKER SOLIDARITY CIRCULATED ABOUT SANTIAGO THIS MORNING.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014